amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

e. To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

f. Action has been taken against non performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

g. Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

National Transport Permits

†514. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Rajasthan has requested Central Government to formulate a draft plan regarding 'National Transport Permits';

(b) if so, whether request regarding inclusion of certain issues in the proposed draft has also been made;

(c) if so, the issues involved and whether Government has taken any steps to formulate the draft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The State Governments, in January, 2009, were requested to provide detailed information relating to National Permit and also submit their views for rationalization of motor vehicle taxes including the composite fee on national permit vehicles with a view to streamline the National Permit system across the country. In response thereto Government of Rajasthan has submitted their views regarding uniform tax structure on motor vehicles.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) and (d) A Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (RT and H) has been constituted on 21.1.09 to look into all the issues relating to National Permit system and rationalization of taxes on motor vehicles including the views/comments of the States/UTs in the matter.

World Bank assistance for roads

515. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has proposed to give Rs. 1,070 crores to Orissa State for various road projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter-alia* indicating the road projects that would be funded out of this amount; and

(c) whether Government is aware that on account of callous attitude of the Centre a number of road stretches of National Highways are moving at a snail's space and these have become death-traps for the commuters in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes sir. State Government of Orissa has entered into an agreement with World Bank for a loan amount of US $ 250 million (approximate Rs.1070 crore) for improvement of 461 km of state Roads. The details of the roads are given below:-

Sl.No.	Road Stretch	Length (in km)
1.	Bhawanipatana-Khariar	68
2.	Chandbali-Bhadrak-Anandpur	95
3.	Berhampur-Taptapani	41
4.	Taptapani-Raipanka	68
5.	Raipanka-Bangi Jn-JK Pur	83
6.	Jagatpur-Chandbali	106
7.	Bansadhara Bridge at Gumuda	

(c) Four-laning in some stretches of National Highway-5 could not be completed because of termination of Contract due to poor performance of the Contractors. Out of the three contracts, two contracts have already been re-awarded and one contract is yet to be re-awarded owing to termination of the earlier Contract being sub-judice. However, the existing road is being maintained in traffic worthy condition.